

Frieder, bought and renamed the company General Textile Mills. As a producer of silk cartridge bags during World War I and parachutes during World War II, General Textile Mills was awarded the Army-Navy 'E' Award for excellence in wartime production as the nation's largest manufacturer of parachutes at the time. The company's name was then shortened to Gentex in 1958. With rapid advancements in aircraft technology following World War II, the government approached Gentex to utilize the same composite-structure technology used in their parachute boxes for the production of pilot helmets. These hard shell helmets were revolutionary, and, to this day, Gentex continues to design the most technologically advanced personal protection and situational awareness solutions for defense forces, first responders, and industrial personnel.

The Frieder family was instrumental in guiding the company from its inception at the turn of the century to the global leader it is today. Staying true to their family roots, this fourth-generation company is run by Chairman L. Peter Frieder, Jr. and President L.P. Frieder III. This sense of family does not stop with the company's leadership. Gentex continues to take pride in being an active member in their community and empowering the economic stability of all that make the company so special. Many of my constituents work at Gentex, and when a company can survive both industrial and digital revolutions, it speaks to both the leadership of the employer and quality of employees. L.P. and Peter say the Carbondale facility reminds them every day of where they came from, and this spirit is the inspiration that keeps them committed to the communities they work in. Their work with area charities such as The American Red Cross, Pennsylvania Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House of Scranton, and Pennsylvania's Adopt-A-Highway Program speaks to their outstanding work, and we are all grateful that a company so committed to its community continues to stay and excel in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, as The Commonwealth Medical College's 2016 Scholarship Gala Innovation Honoree, Gentex Corporation has continually defined what it means to be a leader in their industry. On behalf of my constituents, I thank them for their support of our armed forces and first responders, and look forward to their continued innovation and involvement in our region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 14th, I missed two votes due to a delayed flight. Had I been present for the day's vote series, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 575, the passage of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015, as amended; and yea on Roll Call No. 576, the passage of H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016.

CONGRATULATING THE FATIMA COMETS FOR THEIR FIRST PLACE FINISH IN THE 2016 CLASS 2 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima High School Comets Cross Country team for their first place win in the 2016 Missouri Class 2 Girls Cross Country State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets Cross Country team for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF RON DICARLO

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Veteran Ron DiCarlo for his achievements, contributions, and service in the United States Army whilst overseas in Korea.

Ron DiCarlo was drafted into the United States Army on August 4, 1967 and volunteered for Vietnam, but since he was highly skilled with generators he was transferred to Korea. After serving overseas for eighteen months Ron was honorably discharged as an SPA 4 from the Signal Battalion in Seoul, Korea, in February of 1969.

After his service, Ron worked for 30 years as a machinist in Westmont, New Jersey. Ron served as Senior Vice-Commander of Barrington VFW Post 7247 for several years. Along with this, he is also a steady contributor to the Wounded Warrior program.

Ron has been married for the past forty-seven years to his wife Nancy and together they have 2 daughters, 4 granddaughters, and a great grandson.

Mr. Speaker, Ron DiCarlo is a great American and family man whose service to our country in the United States Army is invaluable, and serves as an inspiration to his community. I join with his family, friends, and all of New Jersey in honoring the selfless service of this extraordinary man.

NATIONAL DIABETES CLINICAL CARE COMMISSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1192, the "National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act," which amends the Public Health Service Act to es-

tablish the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission.

This bill directs the Commission to evaluate and recommend solutions regarding better coordination and leverage of federal programs that relate to supporting appropriate clinical care for people afflicted with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the resulting chronic diseases and conditions arising from these diseases.

As a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, I understand the importance of diabetes prevention and care of patients.

We must address the devastating impact of diabetes as the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, affecting nearly 29,000,000 Americans.

Since 2011, 3 million Americans have been diagnosed with the disease and more than twice that, 7 million Americans, have been diagnosed as pre-diabetic.

In my home state of Texas, the numbers are even more worrisome.

According to a study performed by the Texas Department of State Health Services in 2013, 11 percent of adults in Texas suffer from diabetes and 8.1 percent of adults have pre-diabetes.

Of these percentages, minorities had the highest level of diabetes and pre-diabetes occurrences:

In Black adults, 12.9 percent had diabetes and 9.6 percent had pre-diabetes.

In Hispanic adults, 12.7 percent had diabetes and 6.2 percent had pre-diabetes.

In 2014 in Harris county, 8.5 percent of adults were diagnosed with diabetes.

A 2012 Centers for Disease Control study estimated diabetic medical treatments cost patients throughout the country an estimated \$245 billion.

The direct medical costs associated with diabetes diagnoses totaled \$176 billion.

These numbers are incredibly high, but I am encouraged by the commendable efforts of the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act.

H.R. 1192 takes a critical step in the direction of preventive medicine, shifting the focus of diabetes management from reactive to proactive by encouraging prevention.

Additionally, the establishment of the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission within the Department of Health and Human Services would allow greater collaboration in research in the area of diabetes, pre-diabetes, and the health outcomes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1192, the "National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act."

CONGRATULATING THE FESTUS TIGERS FOR THEIR FIRST PLACE FINISH IN THE 2016 CLASS 3 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Festus High School Tigers Cross Country team for their first place win in the 2016 Missouri Class 3 Boys Cross Country State Championship.